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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001*

Part III
International justice and law

Section 7
International Court of Justice

Contents

		Page
Overview		2
A.	Members of the Court	4
B.	The Registry	5
C.	Programme support	6

* The present document contains section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

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Part III
International justice and law

Section 7
International Court of Justice

Overview

7.1 The International Court of Justice, composed of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council, is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is the principal judicial organ of the Organization. It functions in accordance with its Statute, which forms an integral part of the Charter of the United Nations. The Court decides, in accordance with international law, which disputes are submitted to it by States, and it may give advisory opinions on any legal question at the request of bodies authorized by, or in accordance with, the Charter. The Court submits annual reports to the General Assembly, the most recent of which is contained in document A/53/4.

7.2 Neither the activities of the Court nor those of the Registry are covered in the medium-term plan of the United Nations. The Court must, however, at all times, be able to exercise the functions entrusted to it if the terms and intent of the Charter are to be implemented. An assessment of the estimated requirements of the International Court of Justice for the biennium 2000–2001 needs to be measured against the background of the Court's workload, both current and foreseeable for the biennium. At present, the Court is seized of 13 cases. It is expected that the number of cases will not be substantially reduced in coming years. For budgetary purposes, that number is augmented by the fact that in several of the cases the submission of preliminary objections will, if not upheld, inevitably result in two distinct and consecutive proceedings, each consisting of written and oral pleadings leading to a judgment. Past experience and contemporary developments in international relations make it prudent to assume that at least two new cases will be brought before the Court during the biennium. Similar forecasts of its caseload over six prior bienniums have proved correct. Moreover, there has been a notable increase in the diversity and complexity of the cases.

7.3 Regulation 15.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations provides that the programme budget proposals of the International Court of Justice shall be prepared by the Court, in consultation with the Secretary-General. The proposals shall be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, together with such observations as he may deem desirable.

7.4 The overall level of resources proposed for the International Court of Justice for the biennium 2000–2001 amounts to $21,314,700 at current 1998–1999 rates, reflecting growth of $655,100 (3.1 per cent) compared with the revised appropriations for the biennium 1998–1999. The increase reflects mainly efforts to tackle the Court's increasing difficulty in handling its translation and publication needs, to reduce its backlog of publications and to introduce modern technology for improving its storage, publication and document retrieval and distribution capacity.

7.5 The estimated percentage distribution of the total resources to be provided to the Court in the biennium 2000–2001 would be as follows:

	Regular budget (percentage)
A. Members of the Court	34.3
B. The Registry	45.9
C. Programme support	19.8
Total	**100.0**

Table 7.1 Summary of requirements by component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Component	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
A. Members of the Court	7 205.1	7 546.1	(269.8)	(3.5)	7 276.3	361.2	7 637.5
B. The Registry	9 823.7	8 943.1	762.8	8.5	9 705.9	403.0	10 108.9
C. Programme support	3 240.6	4 170.4	162.1	3.8	4 332.5	184.2	4 516.7
Total	**20 269.4**	**20 659.6**	**655.1**	**3.1**	**21 314.7**	**948.4**	**22 263.1**

Table 7.2 Summary of requirements by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	7 895.2	7 147.4	635.8	8.8	7 783.2	313.5	8 096.7
Other staff costs	1 849.4	1 693.9	105.0	6.1	1 798.9	83.8	1 882.7
Non-staff compensation	7 182.1	7 481.3	(244.6)	(3.2)	7 236.7	359.2	7 595.9
Consultants and experts	13.4	41.7	22.0	52.7	63.7	2.9	66.6
Travel	71.0	110.3	(25.2)	(22.8)	85.1	4.2	89.3
Contractual services	460.8	802.2	471.5	58.7	1 273.7	59.3	1 333.0
General operating expenses	2 100.0	2 719.5	(382.1)	(14.0)	2 337.4	91.3	2 428.7
Hospitality	17.7	14.6	–	–	14.6	0.6	15.2
Supplies and materials	317.0	275.8	–	–	275.8	12.8	288.6
Furniture and equipment	362.8	372.9	72.7	19.4	445.6	20.8	466.4
Total	**20 269.4**	**20 659.6**	**655.1**	**3.1**	**21 314.7**	**948.4**	**22 263.1**

Table 7.3 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: International Court of Justice

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
ASG	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
D-2	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	3	3	–	–	–	–	3	3
P-4/3	13	15	–	–	–	–	13	15
P-2/1	3	5	–	–	–	–	3	5
Total	**22**	**26**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**22**	**26**
General Service category								
Principal level	6	6	–	–	–	–	6	6
Other levels	26	26	3	3	–	–	29	29
Total	**32**	**32**	**3**	**3**	**–**	**–**	**35**	**35**
Grand total	**54**	**58**	**3**	**3**	**–**	**–**	**57**	**61**

A. Members of the Court

Table 7.4 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Non-staff compensation	7 182.1	7 481.3	(244.6)	(3.2)	7 236.7	359.2	7 595.9
Travel	23.0	64.8	(25.2)	(38.8)	39.6	2.0	41.6
Total	**7 205.1**	**7 546.1**	**(269.8)**	**(3.5)**	**7 276.3**	**361.2**	**7 637.5**

7.6 The conditions of service and compensation of members of the Court were reviewed by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. The Assembly, in its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, approved the emoluments, pensions and other conditions of service of the members of the International Court of Justice ($160,000 per year, effective 1 January 1999, for the salary of each judge; allowances of $15,000 per year for the President of the Court and $94 per day — up to $9,400 per year — for the Vice-President when acting as President; and a 10.3 per cent increase in pensions for former judges or surviving spouses of former judges). Resources proposed in these estimates are also expected to be supplemented, as the need arises, by commitments entered into under the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to be adopted by the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Non-staff compensation

7.7 The proposed estimates, before recosting, amount to $7,236,700. This includes a reduction of $244,600, which reflects the one-time total of $223,600 related to the appointment of ad hoc judges pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/223 of 22 December 1997 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1998–1999; (b) a decrease of $19,800 in the pensions of former judges and surviving spouses; and (c) a decrease of $1,200, representing a net decrease for home leave travel, travel to Court sessions and education grant.

Travel

7.8 The estimated requirements under this heading ($39,600), including a decrease of $25,200, would cover the travel and subsistence of the President of the Court to attend sessions of the General Assembly and travel and subsistence of members of the Court on other official business.

B. The Registry

Table 7.5 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	7 895.2	7 147.4	635.8	8.8	7 783.2	313.5	8 096.7
Other staff costs	1 849.4	1 693.9	105.0	6.1	1 798.9	83.8	1 882.7
Consultants and experts	13.4	41.7	22.0	52.7	63.7	2.9	66.6
Travel	48.0	45.5	–	–	45.5	2.2	47.7
Hospitality	17.7	14.6	–	–	14.6	0.6	15.2
Total	**9 823.7**	**8 943.1**	**762.8**	**8.5**	**9 705.9**	**403.0**	**10 108.9**

7.9 The Registry provides legal, diplomatic and other technical support for the Court. It is responsible for financial administration, accounting, conference services, archives and distribution services and documents and library services, and is also the regular channel for communications to and from the Court. The Registrar and Deputy Registrar are elected for a term of seven years and may be re-elected. The staff of the Registry are appointed by the Court in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 2, of its Statute.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

7.10 The estimated requirements ($7,783,200) would provide for 26 established posts in the Professional category and above, 32 continuing established General Service posts (6 Principal level and 26 Other level), and 3 continuing General Service (Other level) temporary posts. The growth ($635,800) relates to the proposed establishment of four new posts (two P-4 and two P-2). The reinstatement of two P-4 translators posts, which had been temporary posts and were discontinued in the biennium 1996–1997, is essential for the Court's caseload and workload and would limit the need for freelance translators to undertake in-house assignments. One P-2 staff member will coordinate the design, development and implementation of automation systems, and one P-2 staff member will function as a full-time publications editor and proof-reader to reduce the level of requirements for freelance proof-readers. All the proposed new posts are intended to improve the timely issuance of legal documents and publications and the storage, retrieval and distribution of documents through modern technology.

Other staff costs

7.11 The estimated requirements ($1,798,900) for other staff costs include provision for the following:

(a) Temporary assistance for meetings ($1,435,900) for the recruitment of English- and French-language typists and for the recruitment and travel of temporary proof-readers, interpreters, translators and stenotypists required for pre- and in-session conference servicing of private meetings and public hearings of the Court;

(b) General temporary assistance ($264,900), including resource growth of $78,900, for secretaries, messengers, library assistants and telephone operators to supplement the regular staff and for maternity and sick-leave replacements;

(c) Overtime ($98,100), reflecting growth of $26,100 based on realized expenditure patterns, for secretarial assistance to judges and the regular staff of the Registry during periods of peak workload, and assistance in reproduction, archives/distribution, finance and security. This provision will result in the reduction of the accumulation of compensatory time off by staff.

Consultants and experts

7.12 The requirements of $63,700, which include growth of $22,000, would provide for expertise to assist in the current efforts to introduce modern technology. In particular, the Court will need a programmer/consultant for the development and implementation of a document information system and consultancy services for network security and the ongoing archives automation project.

Travel

7.13 A provision of $45,500 is proposed for travel of the Registrar to attend sessions of the General Assembly and for travel of Registry staff for other official business of the Court.

Hospitality

7.14 The provision of $14,600 relates to the hospitality requirements of the Court for visits by heads of State or Government and other officials of Governments and international organizations to the Court, receptions for counsel and other such official occasions.

C. Programme support

Table 7.6 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Contractual services	460.8	802.2	471.5	58.7	1 273.7	59.3	1 333.0
General operating expenses	2 100.0	2 719.5	(382.1)	(14.0)	2 337.4	91.3	2 428.7
Supplies and materials	317.0	275.8	–	–	275.8	12.8	288.6
Furniture and equipment	362.8	372.9	72.7	19.4	445.6	20.8	466.4
Total	**3 240.6**	**4 170.4**	**162.1**	**3.8**	**4 332.5**	**184.2**	**4 516.7**

7.15 The estimates under this subsection cover provisions relating to common service requirements of the International Court of Justice and its Registry, including, in particular, the contribution of the United Nations to the Carnegie Foundation for use of the Peace Palace. It also covers costs of publications of the Court, acquisition of supplies and equipment and general operating expenses.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Contractual services

7.16 The estimated requirements of $1,273,700, including resource growth of $471,500, would provide for the following:

(a) The Court's printing programme ($931,200), which includes resource growth of $416,000, for the elimination of the large backlog of volumes of the Court's pleadings, arguments and documents series and for the printing of documents to be generated as the Court gives judgments in the cases currently pending;

(b) Contractual external translation ($253,200), reflecting resource growth of $42,200. This provision will cover the costs of translating annexes to written pleadings and other legal documents that are not restricted to in-house translation; the volume of such documents has increased drastically in recent years owing to the increase in the Court's caseload and workload;

(c) Data-processing services ($89,300), resulting in growth of $13,300, for licences and subscriptions ($6,500), Web site subscription/usage ($24,000) and database acquisition and entry ($58,800), including archives registration software, legal indexing software and library loan catalogue software.

General operating expenses

7.17 The requirements of $2,337,400 include a reduction of $382,100, reflecting the net effect of the changes described below:

(a) The contribution payable by the United Nations for its share of the general operating expenses of the facilities provided in the Peace Palace at The Hague for the Court amounts to $1,913,800. A decrease of $349,800 reflects an adjustment made for the effect of the application of a delayed impact of growth related to the enlargement of the premises of the Court in the prior biennium. In its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly accepted the proposals of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/50/7/Add.11) that the provision for inflation be subject to review by the Committee and to approval by it each time it is requested. The Carnegie Foundation has requested that the contribution be increased by 2 per cent in each year of the biennium 2000–2001;

(b) Rental of photocopying equipment ($32,200), reflecting an increase of $6,900 needed to cover the rental cost of an additional photocopier;

(c) The costs of long-distance telephone calls, postage, pouches, cables and telex, fax communications and electronic mail ($202,800) include an increase of $10,000 based on realized expenditure patterns;

(d) Maintenance of the Court's office automation equipment, vehicles and other office equipment ($165,700). This reflects a reduction of $49,200, due mainly to a decrease in the price of services;

(e) Automobile insurance for the Court's two official cars and other miscellaneous services provided to the Court ($22,900).

Supplies and materials

7.18 The estimate of $275,800 would provide for library books ($105,900) and supplies, stationery, paper for internal reproduction, offset supplies and other miscellaneous supplies ($169,900).

Furniture and equipment

7.19 The requirements of $445,600, including resource growth of $72,700, relate to the following:

(a) The replacement of storage cabinets and temperature and humidity control systems for the archives, the acquisition of an address labelling and dispatch system and of an imaging system to prepare image files for the Intranet, Internet, printing and archives and the purchase of miscellaneous lower-value

furniture and equipment such as computer desks, a book-binding machine, fax machines and a shredder ($170,100);

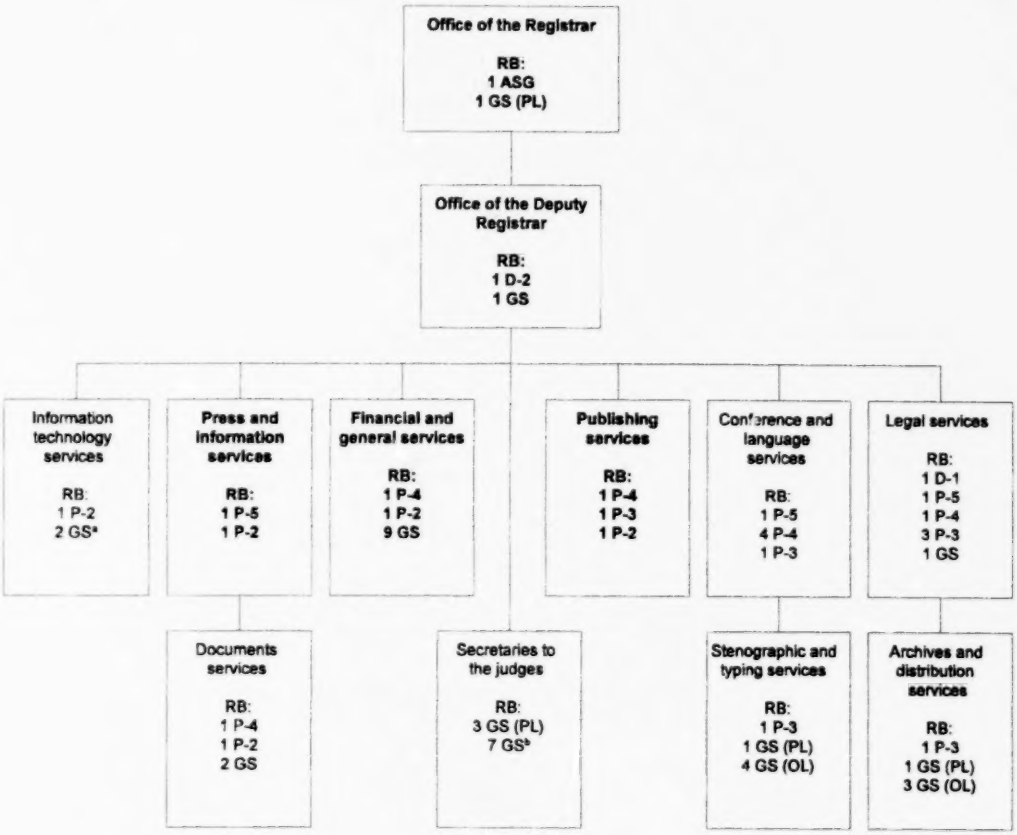
(b) The upgrading of the network architecture and the acquisition of application software licences and a variety of equipment such as a proxy-bastion host server, encryption equipment and translation and document comparison software ($185,900);

(c) The replacement and upgrading of the Court's computer base ($89,600).

Table 7.7 **Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/7 (Chap. II, Part III))	
With regard to the proposed resources for temporary assistance for meetings, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that if the workload continues to increase it may be necessary to examine the cost-effectiveness of providing temporary services against that of using staff on board (para. III.5).	On the basis of a cost-benefit analysis, it is clear that the use of freelance translators on a long-term basis is more costly, since they are often recruited from outside of the Netherlands and are paid a daily subsistence allowance. For that reason, the Court has proposed the reinstatement of two P-4 translator posts for the biennium 2000–2001.
The Advisory Committee recommends that the Court explore vigorously the introduction of modern technology, including methods used by regional and national judicial systems, as well as the experience of the Office of Legal Affairs in reducing its own backlog in the publication of treaties, with a view to improving and modernizing its capacity for storage, publication, retrieval and distribution of Court documents (para. III.7).	The Court is in the midst of reviewing the storage, publication, retrieval and distribution of Court documents. As the Court's Web site and Intranet develop, the capacity for retrieval and distribution of Court documents will automatically increase. Storage capacity will also increase through the reduction of the hard-copy requirements of published Court documentation. In order to accelerate this process, a P-2 post has been proposed to assist the Court in its efforts to introduce modern technology and to enhance its use of the Internet and Intranet for publication of Court documents. In addition to the introduction of modern technology, the Court has proposed the establishment of a full-time copy preparer/proof-reader at the P-2 level to ensure the timely release of publications.

The Registry, International Court of Justice
Proposed organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2000-2001



[a] Includes one temporary post.

[b] Includes two temporary posts.